

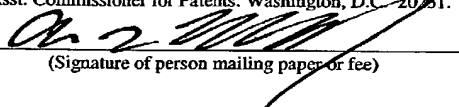
10/019102 PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Uwe Christiansen
PCT serial no. : PCT/EP01/04139
U.S. Serial No. : To be assigned
Filed : April 11, 2001
Priority date : April 22, 2000
For : DEVICE FOR SINTERING OF A MOLD BODY

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Attention: Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the above application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 18 without prejudice, and add the following new claims:

19. A device for sintering of a mold body, said device comprising:
a gas-tight chamber having an inner space therein and a duct communicating therewith
and a heating zone in the inner space; and
a device for vertical feeding of the mold body into the heating zone, said vertical feeding
device having a hoisting apparatus extending into the inner space of the chamber through the

duct, said hoisting apparatus being movable by means of a drive arranged outside of the chamber;

the hoisting apparatus having a drive shaft extending through the duct into the inner space of the chamber, said drive shaft being connected to the drive.

20. A device according to Claim 19, wherein the hoisting apparatus adjacent the heating zone has a link chain having individual links.

21. A device according to Claim 20, wherein the link chain deviates from a direction of vertical traction by contact with a deviation structure.

22. A device according to Claim 20, wherein the links of the link chain are connected to each other so as to prevent relative rotation thereof around a longitudinal axis of the link chain.

23. A device according to Claim 21, wherein the links of the link chain are connected to each other so as to prevent relative rotation thereof around a longitudinal axis of the link chain.

24. A device according to Claim 20, wherein each link of the link chain includes a fixed link or eyelet, said fixed links or eyelets being movably connected by a pin.

25. A device according to Claim 21, wherein each link of the link chain includes a fixed link or eyelet, said fixed links or eyelets being movably connected by a pin.

26. A device according to Claim 25, wherein the link chain has individual rollers, each roller on deviation being supported on the deviation structure.

27. A device according to Claim 26, wherein the rollers each have a diameter and the fixed links or eyelets have external heights that are smaller than the diameter of the rollers.

28. A device according to Claim 26, wherein the deviation structure has a recess therein which receives therein the fixed links or eyelets spaced from the deviation structure so as not to engage therewith.

29. A device according to Claim 21, wherein the deviation structure comprises a deviation wheel.

30. A device according to Claim 29, wherein the deviation wheel has a chain wheel positively engaging into the link chain.

31. A device according to Claim 30, wherein the deviation wheel is driven by means of the drive shaft.

32. A device according to Claim 20, wherein the link chain is connected through a traction rope to a take-up reel driven by means of the drive shaft.

33. A device according to Claim 20, wherein the links of the links chain are of a tensile and temperature-resistant material.

34. A device according to Claim 20, wherein the links are of a mineral carbon material reinforced by carbon fiber.

35. A device according to Claim 19, wherein a force-sensing device determines a force acting upon the hoisting apparatus.

36. A device according to Claim 35, wherein the force-sensing device has a strain control strip to determine the force acting upon the deviation structure.

37. A device according to Claim 20, wherein the device includes a guiding appliance for the link chain which prevents deviation diagonally to the traction direction of the link chain.

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38. A device according to Claim 19, wherein the device includes a catch limiting vertical movement of the mold body.

39. A device according to Claim 20, wherein the device includes a catch limiting vertical movement of the link chain.

REMARKS

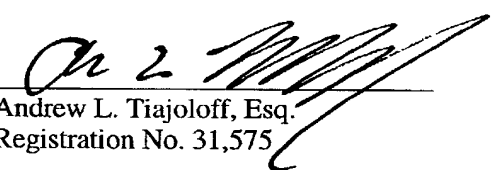
The present amendment is being made to cast the claims herein in U.S. claim format and to eliminate multiple dependency. A form listing the references cited in the International Search Report is also attached. Early allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should any questions arise, the Patent Office is invited to telephone attorney for applicants at 212-682-9640.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant

By:


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